

April 7, 1983

LR 54

PRESIDENT: On to resolutions, LR 54. Could we have order in the Chamber please. We are beginning the discussion of our business now. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LR 54 offered by Senator Fenger. Read LR 54. Mr. President, the Resolution is on page 1318 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Fenger and asks for order so that we can hear Senator Fenger explain the resolution.

SENATOR FENGER: Thank you Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature, President Reagan has declared this Saturday, April 9th, as National POW-MIA recognition day. At 11:15 this morning Governor Kerrey will sign a similar proclamation for the State of Nebraska. LR 54 recognizes that we still do have POWs and MIAs in Southeast Asia. And that even now, ten years after the end of that conflict, there are still some families who wonder in fact what has happened to their husbands, fathers, sons and brothers. LR 54 further recognizes the vital importance of taking steps needed to secure an expeditious return of these Americans. In the words of President Reagan, American POWs and MIAs are heroes who have gone beyond courage and beyond duty. Our nation must never forget them. Resolution of their faith is and will remain a matter of highest priority. Therefore I offer you LR 54 in conjunction with the other happenings of this week. I urge your support of this resolution so the people in Nebraska will know that their Legislature does fully support the actions of both the Congress and the President. Thank you Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body I rise in support of this resolution. I would like to tell you personally that I know one of those men, Michael Basilevac. He came from Omaha and was one of the finest young men you would ever want to know. He was shot down. . . well let me tell you. His job was navigator in one of the fighter planes that was used on a bombing run and for example when the North Vietnamese would send up a rocket, a heat seeking rocket, it was the duty of this fighter plane crew to get between the bomber and the rocket, get their plane in between the bomber and the rocket, let that heat seeking rocket tie on to the heat of their engine and pull that rocket away from the bomber. That was kind of a dangerous game to play, but